

From: Bill Thomson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/9/02 11:45am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the current proposed settlement of the Microsoft antitrust law suite.

I have been involved with building computer based information systems since the early 1970's one of the most notable being the Lexis/Nexis information system used by Lawyers and Business professionals. I have been involved with personal computers since the introduction of the IBM PC in the early 1980's and have not always been in agreement with Microsoft's Windows based strategies in that in the early years they pushed the limits of the desktop hardware systems they ran on making the development of telecommunication applications more difficult. The introduction of Windows 95 with the integration of the TCP/IP protocol within the operating system changed that perspective completely.

It is clear to me as one who has experienced it - that Microsoft has been driven by a vision of what personal computers could be in terms of knowledge access and manipulation tools. The result of that vision is that my grandchildren can now routinely sit down at a \$1,500 PC system equipped with a Word Processor that came with the system and perform activity that was not possible to do in any manner on a \$12 million dollar computer in 1975.

On that same computer with the Internet Explorer software suite that came with it and a \$19.99 a month subscription to the internet my grandchildren in the United States and my grandchildren in Brussels Belgium routinely have video conferences to share what is going on their lives use a free service at the Microsoft Network web site.

Microsoft could have at many times during the past 20 years chosen to take an easier path to profits but instead it has consistently invested in innovations that have made the things I listed above a reality that almost all Americans can access if they choose to regardless of their economic status.

It is my sense that this entire law suite was based upon claims made by companies who wanted to take that easy route or bet on the fact that Microsoft would not be able to deliver their vision and lost.

Everyone of them has had the opportunity to deliver the products they now criticize Microsoft for producing and chose a different path. Many in a sense had the monopoly and chose to use it rather than spend on the product development costs create what the market wanted.

I hope this matter can be settled as proposed in a timely manner.

Sincerely Yours,

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